

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
5:30 P.M.**

M99-R-04

M I N U T E S

FEBRUARY 1, 1999

I. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Elizabeth G. Flores led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

IN ATTENDANCE:

Elizabeth G. Flores,	Mayor
Alfredo Agredano,	Councilmember, District I
Louis H. Bruni,	Councilmember, District II
John C. Galo,	Councilmember, District III
Eliseo Valdez, Jr.,	Councilmember, District V
Joe A. Guerra,	Councilmember, District VI
Mario G. Alvarado,	Councilmember, District VII
Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo,	Councilmember, District VIII
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,	City Secretary
Florencio Pena, III	City Manager
Jaime L. Flores,	City Attorney

ABSENCES:

Motion to excuse Cw. Moreno.

Moved : Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

Note: Cm. Guerra arrived at 5:50 P.M.

IV. MINUTES

1. City Council Meeting, December 7, 1998

City Council Meeting, December 21, 1998

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Agredano

Second: Cw. Montalvo

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

Note: Correction on minutes of December 21, 1998, page 33, should read Houston instead of Washington.

V. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE

- 2. Amending Chapter 31, Article III, Division 3, Rates and Charges, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo, creating a new subsection (b) thereby adding a provision allowing a developer or subdivider to transfer municipal water rights for credit in lieu of water availability fees, platting fees, annexation fees, special assessments for water and sewer, water and sewer connection charges, and impact fees. Directing the Utilities Director to determine the value of the water rights transferred to the City of Laredo by an analysis of contemporary market values obtained through a third party knowledgeable and experienced in the purchase of water rights for Rio Grande River Water Rights. Directing the Utilities Director to set the water right exchange value for each succeeding six month period beginning January 1 and July 1 of each year.

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Bruni

VI. FINAL READING

Internet Available: <http://www.cityoflaredo.com>

Motion to waive the final reading of ordinances #99-O-021, #99-O-022, #99-O-023, #99-O-024, #99-O-025, #99-O-026, #99-O-027, #98-O-028, #99-O-029, #99-O-030, #99-O-031, #99-O-032, #99-O-034, #99-O-035, #99-O-039, #99-O-040, #99-O-042, #99-O-043, #99-O-044, #99-O-045, and #99-O-046.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Alvarado

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

- 3. 99-O-021 Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Alamosa PCS, LLC, a Corporation for a

Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District). (Cm. Alfredo Agredano)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-026.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-027 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 3, Block 1578, Eastern Division, located at 2605 Boulanger St., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to R-3 (Mixed Residential District). (Cm. Alfredo Agredano)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-027.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-028 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 10.57 acres (Tract I) as further described by metes and bounds, located in south Laredo, east of U.S. 83, also known as the "Link Ranch", from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District). (Cm. Alfredo Agredano)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-028.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-029 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 1.78 acres, (Tract II) as further described by metes and bounds, located in south Laredo, east of U.S. 83, also known as the "Link Ranch", from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District). (Cm. Alfredo Agredano)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-029.

(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-039 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning the south of Lot 3 and Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block 197, Eastern Division, located at 4115 Saunders Ave., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District). (Cm. Eliseo Valdez, Jr.)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-039 with amendment.

Note:

Per Keith Selman, Planning Director, this is a conditional use permit.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-040 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 6.7522 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located east of Springfield Road., between International Blvd. and Amador Salinas Dr., from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-3 (Community Business District). (Cm. Joe A. Guerra)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-040.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-041 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 1 and 2, Block 820, Western Division, located at 3119 Juarez Ave., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District). (Cm. Mario G. Alvarado)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-041.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-042 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 251.08 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located approximately 1 mile south of the intersection of FM 1472 and FM 3338, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-1-MH (Single Family Manufactured Housing District). (Cm. Mario G. Alvarado)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-042.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cm. Agredano
 For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
 (Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-043 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 66.79 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located approximately 1 mile south of the intersection of FM 1472 and FM 3338, from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to B-1 (Highway Commercial District). (Cm. Mario G. Alvarado)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-043.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cm. Agredano
 For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
 (Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-044 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning 28.7103 acres, as further described by metes and bounds, located south of the Muller Memorial Blvd., and east of the La Bota Ranch Community Center, from M-1 (Light Manufacturing District) to R-1A (Single Family Reduced Area District) Planned Unit Development. (Cm. Mario G. Alvarado)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-044.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
 Second: Cm. Agredano
 For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
 (Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-045 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the

City of Laredo by rezoning the west 1/2 of Lot 2, Block 238, Western Division, located at 1301 San Francisco Ave., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District). (Cm. Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-045.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

99-O-046 Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 10, Block 115, Western Division, located at 319 Victoria St., from R-3 (Mixed Residential District) to B-1 (Limited Business District). (Cm. Consuelo "Chelo" Montalvo)

Motion to approve Ordinance #99-O-046 with amendment.

Note:
Per Keith Selman, Planning Director, this is a conditional use permit.

Moved : Cm. Bruni
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

VII. RESOLUTIONS

4. 99-R-006 Accepting from Union Pacific Railroad, the donation of a railroad bridge structure situated at the Zacate Creek on Pace Street in the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, and expressing the City of Laredo's appreciation for Union Pacific Railroad's generosity in making said donation.

Motion to approve Resolution #99-O-006.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
(Cm. Guerra was not present.)

Union Pacific Officials Present:

Mayor Flores informed that Senator Kay B. Hutchison introduced a bill that will help the small gas producers. Mayor Flores talked to Senator Hutchison's staff person, who suggested that we strengthen this resolution by deleting the request at the bottom that says -"a congressional delegation to undertake or initiate an investigation", and instead reword it somehow to denote "urgency, that action be taken now in the form of tax relief and other incentives."

Cm. Bruni commented that besides our congressional representatives this should be sent to our legislative representatives (Senator Zaffirini, Representatives Cuellar and King) as well. Although tax breaks are being offered to small gas producers, the larger companies need help too. Some large companies started to merge and to downsize because they cannot survive since the production of oil and gas aboard costs less than producing it locally. Another factor is that crude oil is falling to the 12th year low, so other avenues besides tax incentives are needed. Since Webb County is the second largest natural gas producer, the depressed gas market impacts our local economy, specifically Laredo, because we are very dependent on natural gas producers. Also hundreds of jobs have been lost due to the decline of this industry that's why we need to send a strong message to our legislators in Washington and Austin.

Mayor Flores agreed with Cm. Bruni and thinks that the language needs to be stronger. There is no need to initiate an investigation because we know how many jobs have been lost and we know the effect it has had in our economy. She requested Cm. Bruni to get together with our Legal Department and re-write this resolution.

Per Mayor Flores's request, the makers of the motion concurred to approve the idea of the resolution but wait to accept the language later.

Note:

At this time (5:50 P.M.), Cm. Guerra joined the meeting.

VIII. MOTIONS

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 16. Consideration of an award of contract 99-35 to the LOW BIDDER, Wilson Fire Apparatus, New Braunfels, Texas, in the amount of \$49,073.00, for the purchase of protective clothing (bunker gear) for the Fire Department. The clothing includes protective coats, trousers, and boots. The proposed gear meets all the standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 17. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into a three year contract in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 per year, with the LOW BIDDER, Laboratory Corporation of America, San Antonio, Texas, to provide clinical laboratory tests on specimens submitted by the City of Laredo Health Department. This laboratory is contracted to provide laboratory clinical testing services which are not provided in-house or by the Bureau of Laboratories of the Texas Department of Health. The contract term shall be from October 1, 1998 to September 30, 2001.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 18. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Laredo and Webb County regarding the mutual aid law enforcement task force during the 1999 Washington's Birthday Celebration Festivities.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 19. Consideration to re-schedule the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting from Monday, February 15, 1999 to Tuesday,

February 16, 1999, due to the President's Day Holiday.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 20. Consideration with possible action to contract for the development of a City Policy Manual.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- 21. Presentation regarding the status of the Laredo Northwest International Bridge (Fourth Bridge) for the month of February 1999.

Cynthia Collazo, Community Development Director, presented a video while giving her report on the Fourth Bridge. She reported that the bridge's structure is 44% complete and that the targeted completion date is set for July 1999.

On January 4, 1999 a contract was awarded to MW Builders for the amount of \$29,277,000 for the border facilities. The construction of the border facilities will be done in two stages. Stage I will allow us to commence operations on March 15, 2000 and Stage II will be completed on September 15, 2000. The contract includes liquidative damages on the amount of \$4,500/day for completion after March 15, 2000.

A meeting was held in Mexico City with Lic. Leonora Rueda (Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores), Arq. Vicente San Martin (representing the State of Tamaulipas), Mr. Roger Curtis (from GSA), our City Manager and other State and Federal Officials. The purpose of the meeting was to make sure that both Laredo and Nuevo Laredo will be able to target the opening date at the same time. So, after much discussion it was decided that March 15, 2000 will be the completion date for Stage I, and operations will commence 30 days after -April 15, 2000.

On January 18, 1999 Council approved change order No. 1, for

\$900,000, which is moving the date from September 15, 2000 to March 15, 2000; and again adding the incentive pay of \$4,500/day up to a maximum of 60 calendar days for a total maximum amount of \$270,000.

Regarding the roadways, there will be a session tomorrow with TxDot to make sure that the coordination of all the construction project is underway; also, a contract was awarded to H.P. Zachary in the amount of \$32,842,589. The construction work will start any day this month.

Phase II includes 2 bridges for the railroad tracts, 4 new bridges on IH-35, and 2 direct connectors: from southbound IH-35 to northbound loop, and eastbound loop to northbound IH-35. The second phase will be laid out on June 1999.

On Mexico's concerns, a contract was awarded on January 8, 1999 to Andrade Gutierrez, a company from Brazil, for \$456,228,817 pesos for both the border facilities and the roadway.

22. Presentation to City Council demonstrating the spreadsheet on current year Capital Improvement Programs that will be on the City of Laredo's web page.

Keith Selman, Planning Director, made the presentation. He stated that the spreadsheet provides information pertaining to the status of projects, and that it is available in the City's web page. He outlined the process on how to access the CIP projects from the web page. Finally he briefed on some of the projects to demonstrate how to read the information contained in the spreadsheet.

23. Status report on the extension of University Boulevard.

Cynthia Collazo, Community Development Director, reported that after sending letters of agreement to the two abutting land owners, we received word from one of the families to obtain a survey. So, the Engineering Department contracted with Holland Survey Company to obtain an engineering survey and to determine the boundaries of the original tract. The survey should be ready within 2-3 weeks.

24. Status report on the Colonias Facility Plan, with possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that there are three elements to this plan.

- a) The facility plan itself, which is a technical engineering document being developed by a consultant. The final version of this document will be ready in about two weeks. Afterwards, staff will review it and by the end of February staff will make recommendations to Council.
- b) The environmental document, which is currently being reviewed by both TRC Mariah and staff. We are coming to the final agreement to tie in all the elements together. This document is based on the original proposal presented to the board in which the colonias are getting water but some colonias are lacking sewer services.
- c) The external equity factor. Mr. Charles Clements, from Water Works (non-profit) from New Mexico is helping us on this project. Mr. Clements presented a preliminary engineering plan that makes Tanquesitos eligible for funding. We have discussed the possibility of doing the same for Pueblo Nuevo. By doing this, we'll try to seek new sources of revenue that can be used as leverage, so that we can influence the board to see a request for waste water facilities.

There are two things that we are trying to do with this project. First, the facility plan that TCB is preparing is going to include an expanded area for waste water services. That means that if we want to put Pueblo Nuevo on the sewer map, we would be putting a line that was not reviewed under the environmental document; and it would be the same thing for Mines Road. Secondly, we are looking at the possibility of getting an opinion from the board as to the funding level that this project may have because we want an early opinion before committing to spend money on additional environmental work. Something that we learned from the environmental reviews is that they take long and don't guarantee that the project will be approved.

Mr. Roman informed that it is the County's responsibility to work with the residents on the right-of-ways. The County has worked out with the colonias located along HW 359; however, they are having some problems with colonias residents from the Mines Road. Finally, Mr. Roman stated that the schedule is still viable to go before the board in May 1999 for consideration.

25. Status report on the Santa Isabel Water Well, with possible action.

Fernando Roman stated that the last 45 days were spent looking for a place to put this well. There were three possible places of which two were on TxDot's right-of-ways. After TxDot implying that they didn't want to be involved, a truck and a trailer from the Utilities Department were taken inside the facility. In a little piece of area at the corner, the truck and trailer were driven in a U-turn fashion in order to determine whether to allow traffic inside the facility, which originally they didn't want to do. This area is extremely challenging because there is no private property that has all the pre-requisites that they need. Mr. Roman thinks they have a site inside the facility because seven trucks can be stacked inside while one truck is loading. All that this site needs is ingress and egress from the facility. So, Mr. Roman is working on this plan and that's what he intends to do.

26. Status report on the Weather Modification Program, with possible action.

Fernando Roman reported that the board has let out a contract, starting April 1, 1999, with a company called Atmospheric Inc. Changes to the interlocal agreements were received last Friday. Legal staff will review the amended agreements before presenting them to Council for approval. This may be done by February 16, 1999.

Cm. Bruni added that they met on Wednesday January 27, 1999 with the Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement Association to review the revised weather modification bids. A total of three bids were reviewed. The highest bid was for \$545,000 and the lowest bid was for \$419,000, a difference of \$112,000 between the lowest and higher bidders. Cm. Bruni explained that this is a six-month operation program with a joint participation of Dimmit, La Salle, Zavala and Webb counties.

Cm. Bruni manifested that he is glad to see that after trying for 4.5 years, this Council is finally getting into this rain enhancement program. This shows that when we proceed towards something that we believe in, and follow through, we can achieve positive goals.

27. Status report on the Chacon Creek Interceptor, with possible action.

Fernando Roman stated that the last update he gave Council on this project was that EPA had a situation with our report where they had contracted it out to an external consultant. This is the review of our environmental document, which we paid for and

prepared and turned over to the EPA about a year ago. Three months later, EPA told us that it was going to take from 6-8 months to do the review. In August 1998 EPA allocated funds and decided for an external contractor to do the review of our document. However something went wrong, since Mr. Roman called EPA's office and they were not able to give him a status. After several attempts to get information, an EPA employee acknowledged that his office was in a "state of confusion" regarding our document review. Two hours ago, Mr. Roman called this person from EPA and communicated him our interest in writing to the Regional Administrator to express our deep concern about EPA losing the document or not knowing where it is. The employee asked Mr. Roman to hold-up on the letter and to give EPA's environmental division an opportunity to respond to us.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, manifested that this \$12 million project is very important and feels that it was not given the attention that it needs. Mr. Pena stated that if we don't hear from EPA's environmental division, we may plan to go to the Regional Administrator.

Mr. Roman added that other than the EPA's review, we are ready for this project since we have the right-of-ways and funding.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Cm. Bruni informed that the Winter Garden Ground Water Conservation District is sponsoring a seminar on Regional Water Planning Efforts. The seminar will be held on Thursday February 4, 1999 at the Carrizo Springs Civic Center in Carrizo Springs, Texas. Representatives from the Texas Water Development Board will be available to review the findings of the most recent study, called, "Interaction between Ground Water and Surface Water and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer". Cm. Bruni invited Council and staff interested in these issues to attend the seminar.
- b) The City Secretary made presentation of the 1998 Agenda Book in a CD format to Mayor and Council.
- c) Mayor Flores announced that she had a visit from the Resident Agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Mr. Steven Skaggs, who brought with him Mr. Sanford Mitchell. Mr Mitchell is the Assistant Special Agent in charge of the Houston Division in Houston, Texas and informed her that they have just received more funding and will turn the Laredo office into a District

Office. Because their personnel will increase, they are constructing a new building. By this DEA will be able to work closer with our Police Department and with the narcotics task force.

XI. CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

28. Requests by Mayor and City Council members for presentation and discussion.

A. Request by Council member John C. Galo

1. Status report of the lease agreement with the airlines at the new terminal.

Jose Flores, Airport Director, stated that a status report was provided to Council on Friday's package. He then said that it's not been from staff not wanting to conclude the negotiations with the airlines, but because it is a difficult task. Everything that we propose would be retroactive to the day they move into the new passenger terminal. Mr. Flores mentioned that they are planning to meet with the President of Continental Express, Mr. David Segall, since he is the company's decision-maker. Mr. Flores hopes that in that meeting, perhaps, we can conclude our negotiations on the terms of the new contract.

Cm. Bruni thinks that it may be prudent to wait until the February 24, 1999 meeting, with Mr. David Segall before consummating any lease agreement deals with the airliners. He would like to see if it would be in agreement with Council to visit with Continental in Houston, in the afternoon; and maybe invite two of our local bank presidents, someone from the business community, and a Conoco representative to join us and fly in the morning and come back in the evening.

Cm. Galo wanted to know if we got a response from Mr. Barkley on the October 28, 1998 letter.

Mr. Flores replied that the only response was a telephone conversation in which Mr. Barkley basically said that they are evaluating airports in the Valley and pointed out that Laredo is not in the Valley. Nonetheless, they are evaluating the Laredo Airport for profitable purposes.

After discussion it was determined that Cm. Galo, Cm. Bruni, Cm. Valdez, Cm. Guerra and Mayor Flores will attend the meeting. An agenda will be posted for a workshop session with the President of Continental in Houston, Texas for February 24, 1999.

2. Discussion of the Airport Advisory Committee's role, with possible action.

Cm. Galo stated that an appointee, for the above mentioned committee, expressed concern because the committee members are not getting enough input.

There was discussion on the committee's functions. Mr. Jose Flores added that the meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month; and that the committee reviews all the leases and matters that come before the City Council.

Charles Martens, Chairman, replied that before the ordinance was created, the Airport Advisory Board which is a committee, had full authority over the property. Nevertheless, he feels that the committee is being kept informed. He added that committee members have always been welcomed to place items on the agenda for discussion.

B. Request by Council member Eliseo Valdez Jr.

1. Request for City staff to review the need for increasing the hours of operation for the Main Public Library, with possible action.

Mary Solis, Assistant Director Library, reported that the library' staff and operation hours are in average compared to other libraries that serve the same number of population. The library currently has two rotating crews that work thin on the weekends and at night, so extending the hours of operation will require additional staff.

Florencio Pena, City Manager, stated that staff can look at modifying the hours of operation and report back to Council. Also, staff can prepare an estimate on the cost associated to increasing the hours of operation in order to have a comparison figure for the budget hearings.

Cm. Bruni added that he received a communication stating concerns pertaining to numerous incidents of sexual

misconduct, theft, gang influences and vandalism at the library. The communication also speaks about the 1998-1999 budget which included \$25,000 for security but no security has been seen at the Laredo Public Library.

Mr. Pena replied that the \$25,000 were not budgeted. That was an amount requested in the budget for additional security. Because the money was not available, the Police Department was asked to frequent the library as a security measure. Nonetheless, this is an issue that needs to be re-evaluated but there will be a cost associated with it.

Cm. Bruni suggested that we should look into this at the upcoming budget hearings.

Motion to include both items, library expansion of hours and security, for further discussion in the 2000-2001 budget.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

C. Request by Council member Joe A. Guerra

- 1. Status report on the demolition and removal of the abandoned water storage tanks on San Dario Avenue, Village Boulevard, and Del Mar Boulevard, with possible action.

Fernando Roman, Utilities Director, reported that the abandoned 30,000 gallon tank close to the Bingo is part of what was called the Casa Norte booster station that used to serve the Del Mar area before the new booster station was built. They are currently looking at taking the Casa Norte station down within the next 60 days.

On the other hand, the Ex-Del Mar Water Treatment Plant, confiscated in 1985, has many elements that can be salvaged if we find an interested company. The plant itself can't be reused because the filtration system is outdated according to TNRCC. Although the iron elements have no value to us, there is a conical unit that might be utilized by somebody else; however taking the unit down, transport it, and erect it would cost more that what it's worth. Since we contacted a salvage company to see if they were willing to take the plant down, our

Purchasing Department recommended us to prepare an RFP. We will do well if we find somebody that will take the components at no cost to us.

Cm. Galo suggested to contact Webb County or Rio Bravo City and see if either party is interested.

Cm. Guerra asked Mr. Roman to expedite taking down the abandoned water plant because he would like to have a recreational center developed on this land.

There was discussion regarding the quality and quantity of water that some wells on this area may produce.

D. Request by Council member Mario G. Alvarado

1. Consideration to authorize the City Manager to enter into and execute a cooperative working agreement between South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Association for the Advancement of Mexican-Americans; and Stop Child Abuse and Neglect, Inc. for the purpose of developing a community coalition in Webb County, to reduce substance use and abuse and promote healthy development of youth, families and community, with possible action.

Cm. Alvarado stated that this is basically to provide a cooperative working agreement that would support and allow different departments to participate in this particular city-wide coalition. The school districts, other government bodies, various law enforcement entities, the business sector, and different social service agencies are supporting the creation of this coalition.

They are trying to bring additional money into this community to hire an individual that would lead the work to form this coalition. The coalition will be run by group individuals, who will form a board and will decide what items need to be addressed regarding drug and substance abuse problems that the community is currently facing.

Cm. Alvarado added that the City's support is needed and that it will entail being able to work with different departments like Police and Health, and bring people with expertise in their areas to talk to the coalition about what can be done to help address the substance abuse problems. Also the City can bring in the Parks and

Recreation Department because the more activities we provide to our young individuals, the less likely they will engage with substance abuse or other things of no so positive nature.

Mayor Flores announced that at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, that she recently attended, one of the items on the agenda was what we call the "2-8". These are the hours where children get the most in trouble, from 2:00-8:00 P.M. She added that Mr. Vidaurri and the Police Chief have been working on after schools programs and activities for our youth.

Motion to authorize the City Manager to enter and execute a cooperative working agreement between South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Association for the Advancement of Mexican-Americans; and Stop Child Abuse and Neglect, Inc.

Moved : Cm. Guerra

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Cm. Alvarado

2. Consideration to have City Council meetings at each of the City Council Districts, with possible action.

Cm. Alvarado stated that Mayor Flores previously brought this item up and now he wants to discuss it with Council. Cm. Alvarado said that he mentioned to the UISD and LISD Board members, during the past proclamation, the possibility of holding the Council Meetings at different districts. The response from the board members was positive and they are willing to provide their facilities for council members to go throughout the community and hold the City Council meetings there. This will bring more participation from the community. Also the schools may do projects in which the students will get involved with the governmental process, thus benefiting all the members from this Council.

Mayor Flores said that one of the reasons she brought this item up is because every district has some specific characteristics. Although we have the town-hall meetings, it would be beneficial if we could bring the Council meetings themselves to the people.

Motion to instruct staff to draft an ordinance to provide

for meetings at each of the City Council Districts.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 29. Public hearing concerning an application by Alberto Pena, Owner and Renato Madrigal, Applicant amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 4, Block 898, Eastern Division, located at 405 Meadow Ave., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends denial of this item.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lot 4, Block 898, Eastern Division, located at 405 Meadow Ave., from B-1 (Limited Business District) to B-3 (Community Business District).

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Bruni
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and deny the zone change as per recommendation by Planning and Zoning.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Valdez
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 30. Public hearing concerning an application by Mike Link, Owner amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning Lots 2, 3 and 4, Block 1218, Eastern Division, located at 2119 Corpus Christi St., from B-3 (Community Business District) to B-4 (Highway Commercial District). The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends denial of the proposed zone change to B-4 and approval of a Conditional Use Permit for Truck/Trailer Rentals on this site.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Miss Leticia Quintana, requested that if the zone change is not granted, then if it was possible to get a conditional use permit.

Mr. Hernandez spoke in favor of the zone change.

Motion to close the public hearing, deny the zone change but grant a Conditional Use Permit for a period of six months and for the specific use of a flower shop.

Moved : Cm. Galo

Second: Cm. Bruni

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Galo

- 32. Public hearing approval of an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$435,686 (which consists of \$230,386 in direct funds from the State and in-kind services match of \$205,300) for an Abstinence Education Program partnered between the City of Laredo Health Department and the Laredo Independent School District for the beginning January 1, 1999, through December 31, 1999.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

Ordinance approving an amendment to the contract with the Texas Department of Health and budget in the amount of \$435,686 (which consists of \$230,386 in direct funds from the State and in-kind services match of \$205,300) for an Abstinence Education Program partnered between the City of Laredo Health Department and the Laredo Independent School District for the beginning January 1, 1999, through December 31, 1999.

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved : Cm. Bruni

Second: Cm. Agredano

For: 7

Against:

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo

Second: Cm. Agredano

Primary Contract Vendors:	Estimated Contract Amount
Gillig	\$137,348.19
Universal Coach	\$104,099.27
Muncie Reclamation	\$ 60,090.07
Stewart and Stevenson	\$ 47,749.90
San Antonio Brake and Clutch	\$ 21,853.09
C.C. Battery	\$ 15,648.75
Commercial Rebuild	\$ 10,690.00
Power Equipment	\$ 6,967.50
McCarty	\$ 5,227.15
Velco, Laredo, Texas	\$ 2,326.49

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Guerra
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 35. Consideration of an award of contract number 99-041, to Lucent Technologies, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$23,877.12, for the purchase of a replacement telephone system for the El Metro Operations facility located at 201 Scott. The complete system will be installed within thirty days.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cm. Alvarado
Second: Cw. Montalvo
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

- 36. Consideration of approval of amendment no. 5, an increase of \$65,587.05 to the professional engineering and architectural contract with Wilbur Smith Associates Engineers, Houston, Texas, for additional reproduction and delivery cost for construction bidding documents; additional architectural redesign required not to close Farragut Street and to comply with State Regulations, a second submittal was required to the State Historical Preservation Office; and additional construction phase services for the extended completion date due to construction delays, and the finish out of the Greyhound Terminal for Inter-city Bus Service Facility at Phase "B" of the Laredo Intermodal Transit Center. The original engineering contract was \$765,000.00. This amendment brings the total engineering contract amount to \$857,617.05.

Motion to approve.

Moved : Cw. Montalvo
Second: Cm. Galo
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to adjourn as the Mass Transit Board and convene as City Council.

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

XIII. ADJOURNMENT


Motion to adjourn.

Adjournment time: 7:40 P.M

Moved : Cm. Galo
Second: Cm. Agredano
For: 7

Against: 0 Abstain: 0

I hereby certify that the above minutes contained in pages 01 to 31 are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council Meeting held on the Houston Street, Laredo, Texas, at a place convenient and readily accessible to the public at all times. Said notice was posted on Wednesday, January 27, 1999, at 6:30 p.m.



Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary